

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00p.m.
Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Marcie Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Nick Fowler

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 07:02pm by Chairperson Dornfeld.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Coffin made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of January 9, 2025 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Special Meeting of February 6, 2025. Commissioner Coffin made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of February 6, 2025 Police Commission Special Meeting
were accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**A. Voicemail**

Commissioner Caporale stated there were no voicemail for the month of January.

B. Written Correspondence

Commissioner Caporale stated there were no written correspondence for the month of January.

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. Review of Planning and Zoning plans 43 Danbury Road**

Peter Olsen presented to the Police Commission a proposed conversion of the Red Rooster Pub located at 43 Danbury Road to a 20-unit apartment complex, consisting of 10 one bedroom and 10 two-bedroom units, including 40 parking spaces (32 surface 8 garage). A study was presented by Joe Belskus, appearing remotely, which included accident data in the area over the past three years, current roadway volume, and the average daily trips the proposed complex would generate during the PM peak and Saturday midday. The Board of Police Commissioners expressed concern about the reliability of cars turning right only upon exiting the development onto Route 35 and requested information on AM peak trips the complex would generate. Peter and Joe advised that they would collect the data and provide it during the March meeting.

B. Review of Planning and Zoning plans 371 Wilton Road West

Bob Jewell presented to the Police Commission a proposed plan to replace an existing single-family home at 371 Wilton Road West, with a 20-unit apartment building with 32 parking spaces. There is also a cottage on the property which will stay as is. A traffic study was presented by John Canning which covered the average daily trips the proposed complex would generate during the AM and PM peak. The Police Commission saw no specific safety concern with the proposed development, but noted a general concern for a continuing increase in the volume of traffic.

5. OLD BUSINESS**A. Public Safety Building Update**

Chief Kreitz stated that numerous building tours of our current facility have been scheduled and are available for signup online.

Chief Kreitz stated there are two additional information sessions scheduled for Saturday the 15th.

B. Hiring Update

A conditional offer was made to the next highest candidate from the list to fill a department vacancy. Probationary Officer Luca Zaffina will be sworn in February 24.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

Chief Kreitz stated there were no signs installed/repared for the month of January.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Brian Durling, Division of Professional Standards.

**Ridgefield Police Department
Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report
January 2025**

Training Attended:

Jan. 6, 8, 14,

15, and 17: Officers Theodore, Bloom, and Luis completed Emergency Medical Dispatch training and Telecommunicator training, to become certified to work in the dispatch center.

Jan. 6-10:

Sergeants Gogola, Geller, and VanWattum, Detectives DuBord and Ryan, and Officers Ladue, McMahon, Oliveras, and Clark attended tri-annual recertification training at Western Connecticut State University.

Jan. 8:

Officer Almonte graduated from the 383rd Session of the Connecticut Municipal Police Academy.

Jan. 22:

Officer O'Connor was sworn in and began his in-house training.

P/R Events:

January: Several tours of HQ were given throughout the month.

Jan. 31: Sgt. John Gogola retired after 25 years of service to the Ridgefield Police Department.

Upcoming Events:

Several information sessions and department tours will be held in regard to the proposed public safety building.

A total of 12 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Officers met with children from local day cares/preschools
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages

C. Department Stats

Chief Kreitz reported the total number of incidents for the month of January 2025 was 1,916. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month. Chief Kreitz also went over the Annual Statistics 2024, answering any questions the Police Commission had.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

8. Executive Session

A. Personnel Matters – 2024 Officer of the Year

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:27pm to discuss candidates for Officer of the Year 2024. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:42pm.
No votes were taken.**

Commissioner Caporale made a motion to name Officer Anthony McMahon as Ridgefield Police Department's Officer of the year 2024. Commissioner Money seconded the motion. The Commission noted for the record that they were incredibly impressed with the high quality of all the nominees for Officer of the Year. The Commission further noted how proud our residents should be by the depth and breadth of talent within the Ridgefield Police Department and officers help keep Ridgefield both safe and caring every day.

All in Favor

**Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 8:43pm.
Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.**

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary